(a) whether there is any scheme to expand the scope of Eklavya Ashram Vidyalayas in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken towards improvement as well as infrastructure development;

(c) the status of the recruitment and appointment of teachers; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India to State Governments for setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and not Eklavya Ashram Vidyalayas. At present, no proposal to expand the scope of EMRS is under consideration of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Concerned State Governments are to form autonomous societies to run EMRS and make arrangements for teachers etc. and, therefore, such information is not maintained in the Ministry.

(d) No separate earmarking of funds for EMRS is done by the Ministry. However, the Ministry provides one time grant of Rs. 250.00 lakh for school building, hostels, teachers' quarters and associated infrastructure, and upto Rs. 72.50 lakh per school of a capacity of 420 students annually to meet the recurring expenses to run the school.

National Tribal Policy, 2006

3337. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not finalizing National Tribal Policy, 2006;

(b) the measures taken to address the issues concerning tribals; and

(c) the details of activities undertaken by Government for the upliftment of tribals and achievement made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) The final draft of the National Tribal Policy has been submitted for approval of the Cabinet.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of the development for the Scheduled Tribes (STs). The programmes and schemes of the Ministry are intended to support and supplement, through financial assistance, the efforts of other central Ministries, the State Governments and voluntary organizations, and to fill critical gaps taking into account of situation of STs. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of interests of Scheduled Tribes rests with all the Central Ministries,

the Ministry of Tribal Affairs complements their efforts by the way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes, which cover education, health, skill development, income generation, community development and infrastructure for income generation etc. In the last 3 years the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has spent the amount given below for achieving these objectives for the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes.

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	1647.37
2007-08	1524.32
2008-09	1806.51

UNESCO's comments on ICDS

3338. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO has criticized India's Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) on the ground that States with the worst malnutrition in the country have the lowest coverage of ICDS programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the programme fails to preferentially target girls, children from lower castes and the poor; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) In the Report, UNESCO has observed certain inadequacies of ICDS, which appear to suffer from factual and contextual inaccuracies.

(b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme covers all children, including girls in the age group of 0-6 years and Pregnant and Lactating mothers, irrespective of their economic, social and gender status.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the above.

Plan for poor and weaker women

†3339. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a plan to improve the basic support system of the poor and weaker women; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.